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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,041	02/19/2002	Yutaka Akiba	16869N-044100US	8600
20350	7590	01/02/2004	EXAMINER	
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP			TRAN, HENRY N	
TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
EIGHTH FLOOR			2674	
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834			DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/080,041	AKIBA, YUTAKA	
	<b>Examiner</b> HENRY N TRAN	<b>Art Unit</b> 2674	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### **Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2002.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) 16-20 is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) 4-15 is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 19 February 2002 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a)  The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

This Application has been examined. The original claims 1-20 are pending. The examination results are as following.

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The examiner has considered the information disclosure statement (IDS) received 2/19/02 (Paper No. 5) (see the attached form PTO-1449).

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claims 4-15 are objected to because of the following informalities: editorial errors have been found in line 2 of said claims: “any one of the”, which is an extra unneeded phrase, should be deleted. Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yutaka (JP 11-312470) in view of Eo et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,105, hereinafter referred to as “Eo”).

Yutaka teaches a method for a plasma display having address electrodes 15, first display electrodes 17, second display electrodes 10, and partition wall 5 including metal electrode therein, comprising: a first step for addressing operation for each sub-field; and a second step for conducting sustaining operation for display (see figures 12 and 15). However, Yutaka does not teach that the second electrode is applied a pulse voltage, which is different in polarity with that of a pulse voltage applied to the first electrode. Eo teaches that the second electrode (X) is applied a pulse voltage ( $+Vs/2$ ), which is in synchronism but different in polarity with that of a pulse voltage ( $-Vs/2$ ) applied to the first electrode (Yi). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the polarity reversal technique as taught by Eo in the Yutaka device because this would increase wall charge formed between display electrodes for improve display brightness and luminous efficiency for a plasma display device. By this rationale, claims 1-3 are rejected.

*Allowable Subject Matter*

5. Claims 16-20 are allowed.

*Conclusion*

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They are: U.S. Patent Nos. 6417824, 6414658, 6400342, 6559815 and 6476781 teach methods for driving plasma display devices .

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HENRY N. TRAN whose telephone number is 703-308-8410. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon – Fri from 8:00AM – 4:30PM.

If attempts to read the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, RICHARD A. HJERPE, can be reached at 703-305-4709.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or fax to:**

703-872-9306

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is 703-306-0377.

*Henry N. Tran*

HENRY N. TRAN  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2674

Hnt  
December 29, 2003